

Eclipse Plug-in Development Research Project

Report 11



UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

August 28, 2015

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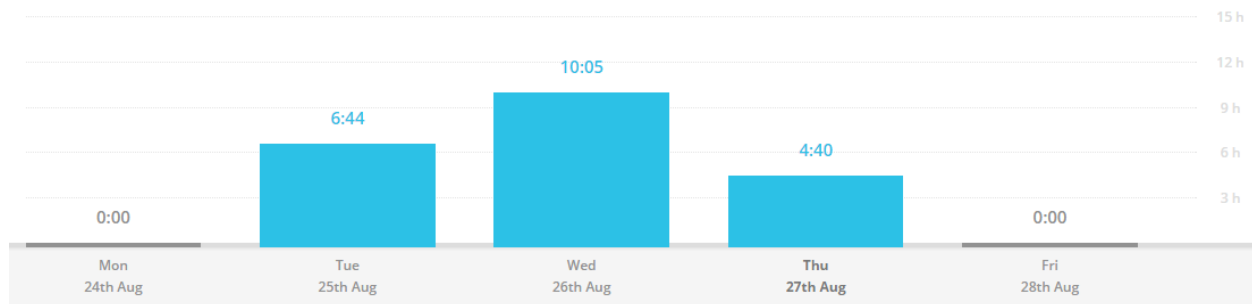
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Introduction

In this week, I have fixed the issues that we had from last meeting, and most of the time I and twerking and testing the plugin for a better user experience.

Synopsis

I spend around 20 hours on this project for this week.



Eclipse Plugin	21:29:00
creating report and powerpoint	4:40:00
finishing up and some twerking	5:24:00
fixing non-compilation unit	4:41:00
fixing some missed recorded elements	6:44:00

Explanation of content

Few points that we discussed earlier, first one was that we would want to record the changes of individual Java Project in its own recorded file. Secondly, we would like to handle the case where students cut and paste the whole java file. And yes, I have got them fixed already.

Nothing much to explain as most of the parts have already been discussed. This report is more of a bug fixing and better user experience.

My concern

So, I have put in the thought where the students might do the whole copy/cut and paste before the plugin starts catching differences, I decided to bring back the initial display of CompilationUnit. Without that, we might get lost somewhere while tracing the data and so I have put that back on (regardless of how much information that will be added in).

So, I did a testing on my plugin file (which is more than thousand lines of code), the only one time printing out the initial CompilationUnit is actually 132Kb large! So I was wondering whether that would be a good practice or not.

NOTE: The whole printing initial content will only happen when either we don't have the previous CompilationUnit or the current CompilationUnit doesn't exist. Few cases that will print the initial content:

- Switch to another java file (as we don't have previous CU for the new java file, might just printing out what's in there for first time)
- Switch to another project (that is obvious one since the recording file will be changed to the project that we are working on)
- When the current CU itself is empty (when user removes all the code in Java file), then the content of previous CU will be flushed out.

Cases above will print out the initial content of CU (might be as large as the one I mentioned above, depending on the java file). The whole printing out initial content is actually very much necessary as students like to cut and copy paste code a lot.

So, should I include this?

Conclusion

The more I work on the plugin, the more bugs that I fix. It's getting better and better now. Crazy and complicated operation might result in unpredictable or unexpected result, as that this plugin is tested by me and I'm expecting simple execution one at a time.

Any issues with the plugin, please report it to chernyee@buffalo.edu. Thank you very much!